

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A communication method comprising the steps of:

communicating via a network virtual personal information having a representation format similar to that of real personal information of a real world; and

converting the virtual personal information into the real personal information based on registered information, in a managing apparatus provided in the network.

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2. An electronic commercial transaction method comprising the step of:

making a commercial transaction in a virtual world on a network, based on virtual personal information received via the network,

said virtual personal information having a representation format similar to that of real personal information of a real world.

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3. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

converting the virtual personal information into the real personal information in a managing apparatus provided in the network.

4. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of:

5 instructing delivery and/or settlement of an item from the managing apparatus depending on the commercial transaction, based on the real personal information.

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5. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

15 seeking confirmation on an approval of the settlement to an individual in the real world who made the commercial transaction, based on the virtual personal information.

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6. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

25 approving log-in to the virtual world; and
 approving the commercial transaction in the virtual world.

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7. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step of
35 approving the log-in and said step of approving the commercial transaction respectively approve based solely on the virtual personal information.

8. The electronic commercial transaction method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said virtual personal information includes at least one of a virtual name, a virtual address in a virtual city within the virtual world, a virtual telephone number, a virtual bank account number of a virtual bank within the virtual city, and a virtual credit card number of a virtual credit card usable in the virtual world.

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9. A managing apparatus comprising:
managing means for managing registered information which is used when converting virtual personal information into real personal information of a real world, said virtual personal information having a representation format similar to that of the real personal information; and
converting means for converting the virtual personal information received via a network into corresponding real personal information of the real world, based on the registered information.

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10. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:
means for instructing delivery and/or settlement of an item depending on a commercial transaction which is made in a virtual world in which the virtual personal information is used, based on the real personal information.

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11. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

means for seeking confirmation on an approval of a settlement to an individual in the real world who made a commercial transaction in a virtual world in which the virtual personal information is used, based on the virtual personal information.

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12. A virtual city space comprising:

a plurality of virtual shops accessible via a network,

15 a commercial transaction being made between a first virtual individual and an arbitrary one of the virtual shops, based on virtual personal information of the first virtual individual,

20 said virtual personal information having a representation format similar to that of real personal information of a real world.

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13. The virtual city space as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

a virtual home of a second virtual individual having a virtual address in the virtual city space,

30 a communication being made between the first virtual individual and the second virtual individual, based on the virtual personal information of the first virtual individual.

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